

March 24, 2020

St. Louis County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Update

Today, as of 5:00 PM, the St. Louis County Department of Public Health (DPH) has:

- One death.
- 97 total positive cases, an increase of seven new positive cases from yesterday's 90.
- The St. Louis County Department of Health fielded a total of 885 calls on 3/23/2020. This marks a significant increase of the 396 calls fielded on 3/22/2020.

We should not take solace in the fact that only seven new cases are being reported today. The manner in which the numbers will be reported moving forward is changing to streamline the process. The practice will bring local health departments to a consistent level of the timing and reporting of the numbers. Today, 3/24/2020, should be the first and only day this issue occurs.

Due to the volume of results now available, the ability to provide data on each positive case has diminished.

Testing Locations and Instructions

Filters are in place to ensure an expedited testing process for those that meet the necessary criteria. Citizens must call prior to arriving at any testing facility. This is to ensure that individuals are filtered to the next step, if any, appropriately. An operator will transfer them to a screener to get authorization for testing and provide further instruction.

Phone numbers are associated with physical location of that citizen. A map attached to this email displays this. Those numbers are:

North County – (314)653-5000

Mid County – (314)747-3000

West County – (314)251-0500

South County – (314)966-9666

Additionally, all SSM Health area hospitals can be reached for testing information at www.ssmhealth.com/covid19.

These processes are in place to ensure that medical professionals, facilities, and supplies are not inundated and exhausted unnecessarily. Furthermore, it reduces the time and manner that people that potentially have COVID-19 are in public.

New Criteria for Testing

The criteria for testing has changed as a result of this pandemic evolving. The new testing criteria is less focused on travel and more focused on symptoms. This is a consequence of clear evidence of community transmission being present in St. Louis County. The criteria now requires:

- Close contact of a COVID patient WITH symptoms.
- High risk (age or underlying medical condition) WITH symptoms.
- Hospitalized WITH symptoms.

Please note that each of those require symptoms. Again, symptoms are fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

Daily Information

Residents experiencing symptoms of fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, should contact the St. Louis County Health Line at (314)615-2660 with their concerns. Those who have reason to believe they have encountered a person infected with COVID-19 should also utilize that number.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services hotline can be reached at (877)435-8411.

St. Louis County has created a website dedicated to the dissemination of information relating to COVID-19, www.stlcorona.com. Please visit that website or those belonging to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or the World Health Organization (WHO) for the most current and reputable information available.



Sergeant Benjamin Granda

Public Information Coordinator

314-615-4282

bgranda@stlouisco.com